In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. (Original) An assembly for connecting a propeller to a drive axle, the assembly comprising

a drive member configured to mount on the drive axle, the drive member having an axis and including a plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs,

a tubular member coupled to the propeller, the tubular member having an axis and a plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs, and

a plurality of U-shaped resilient members, each resilient member having two appendages, each appendage extending between one of the plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs and one of the plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each radially outwardly extending rib includes a drive surface, the drive surface defining a plane in radial alignment with the drive member axis.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the appendage comprises a contact surface configured to engage the drive surface of the radially outwardly extending rib.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the contact surface defines a plane in radial alignment with the drive member axis.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 2, wherein each radially outwardly extending rib further includes a counter-drive surface, the counter-drive surface also defining a plane in radial alignment with the drive member axis.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the appendage comprises a counter-drive contact surface configured to engage the counter-drive surface of the radially outwardly extending rib.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6, wherein the counter-drive contact surface defines a plane in radial alignment with the drive member axis.

8. (Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each appendage defines [[an]] a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis being in parallel alignment with the drive member axis.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each appendage has a length that is substantially equal to the axial length of the inwardly extending ribs.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each U-shaped resilient member has a loop portion connecting the two appendages.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the looped portion is arcuately shaped.

12. (Original) An assembly for connecting a propeller to a drive axle, the assembly comprising

a drive member configured to mount on the drive axle, the drive member having an axis and including a plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs,

a tubular member coupled to the propeller, the tubular member having an axis and a plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs, and

a plurality of resilient members, each resilient member being positioned between one of the plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs and one of the plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs, the resilient members each having a planar contact surface and a planar counter-drive surface.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein planar contact surface is in radial alignment with the drive member axis.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the planar counter-drive surface is in radial alignment with the drive member axis.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of resilient members has a longitudinal axis in parallel alignment with the drive member axis.

16. (Original) A method of resiliently connecting a propeller to a drive axle, the method comprising the steps of

mounting a drive member on the drive axle, the drive member having an axis and a cylindrical outer surface having a plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs extending therefrom,

positioning a plurality of resilient members adjacent the outer surface, each resilient member being positioned adjacent one of the radially outwardly extending ribs,

mating a boss end of each resilient member in a cavity formed in the drive member, and

positioning the propeller over the resilient members, the propeller having a concentric tubular member defining an axis and a plurality of radially inwardly extending

ribs, wherein each of the radially inwardly extending ribs is configured to extend between two of the resilient members.

17. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein each of the resilient members has a radially inwardly facing surface contoured to embrace the cylindrical outer surface of the drive member.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein each of the resilient members has a first side contact surface for contacting one of the inwardly extending ribs and the outwardly extending ribs, the side contact surface having a plane in radial alignment with the propeller drive axle.

19. (Original) An assembly for connecting a propeller to a drive axle, the assembly comprising

a drive member configured to mount on the drive axle, the drive member having an axis and including a plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs,

an insert having a plurality of sides, the insert being configured to mate with an inner hub of the propeller, the insert having an axis and a plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs, and

a plurality of resilient members, each resilient member extending between one of the plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs and one of the plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs.

20. (Original) A method of resiliently connecting a propeller to a drive axle, the method comprising the steps of

mounting a drive member on the drive axle, the drive member having an axis and a cylindrical outer surface having a plurality of radially outwardly extending ribs extending therefrom,

positioning a plurality of resilient members adjacent the outer surface, each resilient member being positioned adjacent one of the radially outwardly extending ribs,

mating a boss end of each resilient member in a cavity formed in the drive member,

mating an insert with an inner hub of the propeller, the insert having a plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs, wherein each of the radially inwardly extending ribs is configured to extend between two of the resilient members.